

# The Carlsbad Current

TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR.

CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1916.

NUMBER 16.

## DARING JAIL DELIVERY

**IN DEMING IS FOLLOWED BY DESPERATE FIGHT IN WHICH SHERIFF IS KILLED. FIVE OUTLAWS MAKE ESCAPE; ONE IS DEAD, ONE CAPTURED AND OTHERS GET TO HILLS.**

Deming, N. M., Feb. 20.—Five prisoners this morning made their escape from the city jail after making City Marshal Tabor a prisoner, taking a number of guns and ammunition from the arsenal and securing a Ford automobile from a local garage. They fled in the direction of Rincon and were soon followed by a posse headed by Sheriff D. B. Stephens.

The prisoners who escaped were Francisco Acosta, the ringleader, who is charged with murder; J. O. Starr, and C. Schmidt, alleged burglars; W. Dasherly, alleged forger and Joe Cranson, a vagrant.

Early this morning City Marshal Tabor entered the jail and Schmidt asked him to be allowed the privilege of going to the corridor. The door was unlocked and he entered the hallway. Schmidt soon returned to the door of his cell and asked the officer to unlock it so he could enter. As Tabor started to unlock the door Schmidt pinned his hands behind him and the other prisoners hurried to his assistance. The officer was thrown to the floor and later locked in the cell. His revolver was taken as was \$5 in currency.

The five men then unlocked the cells of the jail and invited the other prisoners to accompany them, but this they declined to do. Hurrying to the national guard arsenal nearby the five men secured guns and ammunition as well as a number of revolvers.

Car Secured by Cunning Ruse. One of the men then called the Park garage and asked the proprietor to send a machine to the jail fully provided with gasoline and tires for a long trip, together with \$20 in currency. The prisoner stated the sheriff wanted the car to take a sick prisoner to Faywood Springs. The ruse worked.

D. O. Snodgrass, one of the proprietors of the garage, drove a car to the jail and was at once admitted. He was at once covered with revolvers held by the five men, and locked in a cell with Tabor. The telephone wires were cut and the five men entered the automobile.

It is said Cranson did not want to enter the machine, but as he was the only man in the party who could operate a car he was told that if he did not consent to drive them he would be shot.

About an hour later a Mexican woman whose husband was a prisoner in the jail called. Tabor and Snodgrass told her to notify the sheriff of the escape of the prisoners. She immediately called at the sheriff's house and a posse was quickly formed and the chase started. Automobiles were secured and a number of machines in which members of the Deming company of national guard deputies and civilians rode took up the pursuit. Throughout the day and late in the evening other parties left in machines to aid in running down the bandits.

Among the prisoners in the jail was General Roque Gomez, who was arrested last Tuesday on a federal warrant charging conspiracy with the late General Victoriano Huerta to launch an armed expedition against the Republic of Mexico. General Gomez was released by the prisoners, but refused to accompany them. He was taken to El Paso later.

Rincon, N. M., Feb. 20.—Dwight W. Stephens, sheriff of Luna county, and Joe Cranson, who was serving a jail sentence for vagrancy, are dead; Deputy Sheriff "Buck" Sevier is painfully but not seriously wounded, and J. O. Starr, awaiting trial for burglary, is in the Dona Ana county jail with a bullet in his shoulder as the result of a desperate battle fought a mile and a half west of here shortly after noon today. The battle followed a daring jail delivery in Deming early this morning in which five prisoners escaped and made a dash for liberty in a automobile.

Marshal Tabor, of Deming, one of the posse pursuing the fugitives, gives the following account of the battle which resulted in the death of Stephens and Cranson and the wounding of Sevier and Starr:

"We ran onto the bandits, just over a small but steep hill about a mile northwest of Rincon. We saw that the road narrowed to a mere trail and were doubtful of getting the car over the hill.

"I went up to the top of the hill and saw the bandits beside their car, which was stalled, eating a lunch. They opened fire on me. I stopped long enough to call the rest of the posse and then returned the fire. Just how many shots were exchanged before my three companions came up, I do not know. Buck Sevier arrived first, Sheriff D. B. Stephens next and Deputy Sheriff John Kelly third.

They came running and like me were surprised by the nearness of the bandits. I don't believe they were more than ten paces from where we stood.

"Throw up your hands, you," yelled Sevier.

"He fired one shot and fell. Sheriff Stephens never fired a shot, falling dead with his hand half raised to

shoot. Deputy Sheriff Kelly arrived and shot the boy who had been forced to drive the car for the bandits. I stepped behind the hill to re-load. The fugitives were already in full flight. Sheriff Stephens came up in such a way that he was but a few feet from the man that shot Sevier. The bandit stepped over and secured Stephens' gun and used it until he fled. I saw but one of the men when I stepped from behind the hilltop. He was just topping a rise. I fired twice at him and he fell.

"We found afterward that he had been shot in the leg. One of the bandits made off in the general direction of El Paso. The other two fled toward Grama, a station northeast of Rincon. I followed the two with Wayne Estes. We took a car to bring back the body of Sheriff Stephens and Buck Sevier. We were startled on our return to find him sitting up with the blood streaming over his face. He was not badly injured, having only a slight scalp wound.

Marshal Tabor wired Deming for assistance upon reaching Rincon after the battle. Help began to arrive about two hours after the fight and has been coming in a steady stream ever since."

Fifty Deming citizens, including a detachment of Company I, N. M. G., under the command of Lieut. Clyde Earl Ely, are searching. Large patrols are out over the country trailing the fleeing bandits.

All trains are being met by the state troops at Rincon and thoroughly searched. Peace officers in every direction have been notified.

Sheriff Felipe Lucero of Dona Ana county is due to arrive from Las Cruces at 11:10 p. m., with a posse. The patrols will be kept out all night and in the morning a systematic search will be begun.

The wounded bandit's wounds were dressed at Rincon shortly after the battle and he was taken to Las Cruces by Deputy Sheriff Kelly and Buck Sevier.

Sheriff Stephens was not a gunman in any sense to which odium might attach, according to Capt. Fred Fornoff, former head of New Mexico mounted police, who was in Albuquerque yesterday. The Luna county sheriff was a fearless man and had a high sense of duty, said Captain Fornoff.

Las Cruces, N. M., Feb. 21.—C. Schmidt, one of the five prisoners who broke from the Luna county jail in Deming yesterday morning, and who, after a fight with officers near Rincon in which Sheriff Dwight B. Stephens was killed, escaped to the hills, was captured early this morning fourteen miles northwest of Las Cruces and was lodged in jail at this point.

Only two of the outlaws are now at large, Francisco Acosta and W. Dasherly, and officials express confidence that they will soon be captured.

### LUKE DANNELLY AND HIS CAR.

Hurley, N. M., 2-21-16.

Editor Carlsbad Current.

Mr. M. L. Dannelly, one of Carlsbad's pioneers, who now resides at Hurley, New Mexico, came into this place last Saturday night from El Paso in a 1916 five passenger Overland touring car. He drove it up from the Pass City. He had very good luck until he got nearly home and ran over a cow and had to back off of her, and she jumped up and ran away. But not until she had smashed both lights out and jarred the radiator up a little. Luke says he's rode the range on Spanish ponies after wild cattle all over Eastern New Mexico and west Texas, and of course that was years ago, but he says he never even thought then there would ever be such a thing as a horseless carriage.

Luke and family now live in Hurley a mining camp a few miles from Silver City. He and the boys are working for the Chino Copper Company. There are about 1,350 men employed in the mill. The mines are at Santa Rita ten miles above Hurley while the concentrator is at Hugeloy. Copper is up to 28 1-2 cents per pound now and expected to go to 30 cents before it stops. The employees are expecting another raise in wages soon. They got a 25c. raise on a day in January and copper was only 22 cents then.

Luke and his family will go back to Carlsbad early in the summer and Claude will stop there for a few days, while the folks will go to Clovis to see Will Dannelly's folks and then to Ballinger, Texas, and visit a while then to Robert, Texas, and back thru Carlsbad and on to Hurley to resume his duties. Claude will come back on the train. Mr. Dannelly knows the country so well he can easily make the trip over land in his car.

Yours truly,

A SUBSCRIBER.

### EDDY COUNTY HOSPITAL NEWS.

Mrs. J. Stokes, of Lovington, who underwent a serious operation Feb. 16, will be able to leave her home in a few days.

Mrs. S. Eastwood, of Elida, who was operated on the 12, is recovering rapidly.

Mrs. Frank Miser and baby will be able to leave the 1st of the week.

Mr. J. Marsh, of Artesia, left the hospital February 16th.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN OF OTIS ENTERTAINED.

The parent-teachers association entertained Saturday evening all the children of the Otis school who had attained sufficient home credits—600—who were invited to a Washington social at the school house. Most of the children and a good many chaperones were present. Games were played too numerous to mention. Then Mr. Egerton, a recent refugee from Mexico, who was a guest of Mr. Galton, gave a most interesting talk on conditions in Mexico illustrated with photos, after which he gave several humorous readings, which kept the house in an uproar. Ice cream and cake were served. Everybody went home declaring they had spent a most enjoyable evening.

The following pupils attained the highest number of credits: Roswell Force, Charles Ellsworth, Elisa Grandi, Lillian Greenwood, and in the primary department: Emmett Tebbetts, Hubert Grandi, Donie and Fronie Lankford.

### ANDERSON SANATORIUM

J. E. Jones, the engineer on the Tansill dam, entered yesterday for medical treatment.

Mrs. H. R. Besing, of Amarillo, Tex., and the girl baby of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kendall, of Malaga, are at the Sanatorium for operations.

Mrs. Campbell of Lakewood and Mrs. Sam Akin, are convalescing rapidly from operations.

Mr. Fowler, who spent last winter at the Sanatorium, has returned for the balance of the season.

Christian & Co., INSURANCE.

## CARLSBAD'S CELEBRATION.

### CARLSBAD TO CELEBRATE JULY THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH.

Enthusiastic Meeting of Citizens and Business Men. Committee Unanimously Chosen and Plans for Big Celebration Begun.

At the mass meeting of business men held in the Court House Monday evening, a large and enthusiastic crowd was present and great interest was shown by all present regarding the matter of holding a big Fourth of July picnic and barbecue beginning on the morning of the third of July and closing on the night of the fifth.

The representative business and professional elements of Carlsbad were present and all were of the opinion that a big celebration could successfully be had. The unanimous expression of the meeting was that every citizen should put his shoulder to the wheel and help Carlsbad pull off the biggest and best entertainment which has ever been scheduled in the Pecos Valley. Everybody will

### RED MEN CLOSE A SUCCESSFUL MEETING AT DEMING.

Deming, N. M., Feb. 23.—The twelfth annual Great Sun council of Red Men of New Mexico closed a successful two days' convention here this afternoon with a uniformed drill and parade.

Grand officers were elected as follows: Jesse Turner, Santa Rita, grand sachem; O. L. Dempsey, Mogollon, great senior sagamore; R. H. Hughes, Deming, great junior sagamore; W. H. Mullane, Carlsbad, great prophet; Thomas E. Blovel, Hurley, recorder; W. G. Woerner, Knowles, keeper of wampum; Dan Hatchaway, Deming, great sunat; A. M. Pontinus, Deming, great guard; H. D. Green of Deming, member of judicial council; L. L. Godeaux, Deming, great representative.

Thirty lodges were represented.

### Connolly-Baca Fight a Draw.

Johnnie Connolly is home from Santa Fe where he finished with honors in a ten round bout with Mike Baca, the Santa Fe contender for the lightweight championship of New Mexico on Monday night. The fight was declared a draw by the referee after ten rounds of clean aggressive fighting. The local favorite says he was treated fairly and squarely in the fight and has nothing to offer as an excuse for his not winning the decision except that the higher altitude of the capital city affected his wind to such an extent as to be noticeable from the first time he ascended the stairway at his hotel.—Roswell News.

Christian & Co., INSURANCE.

KEEP THE CHAPS OFF WITH

## SNOWATILLA

—THE BEST EVER—

All the others, of course, but we recommend the above

## EDDY DRUG STORE

—PENSAR—

### DEATH CLAIMS AN OLD LAND MARK.

J. T. Truitt, late years of Lakewood, but a one time land mark of this vicinity, was called to his long home early last Saturday morning. He was 72 years of age January 22nd. Mr. Truitt had been losing strength since before Christmas, having a spell of lagrippe, which at his age left his heart weak. He was the only son of John and Mary Truitt, of Ohio, born there in 1844. He leaves a companion the faithful wife, who has shared his joys and sorrows for 42 years, and eight children, four daughters and four sons, to mourn his loss: Ed. Truitt, of Grass Range, Wyoming; Misses Irie, Sallie and Carrie Truitt; Mrs. Al Rheinboldt, of Ohio; Fred Truitt, of Fort Stockton, Texas; George and Will Truitt, of Lakewood. Six of the children were at the funeral. Mr. Truitt came to Carlsbad about twenty-five years ago, and at one time ran a restaurant where the U. S. meat market is now located. He is an old time personal friend of many Carlsbad citizens who join with the sorrowing family in the loss of a husband and father. The casket containing the body was brought to Carlsbad by auto some of the family and friends coming by auto and others on the 2:45 train. Interment was made in City cemetery. The pall bearers were

chosen from the personal friends of the family in Lakewood. Rev. J. T. Redman, of the Methodist church of this place offered a prayer and Company "B" having charge of the body, for burial, as Mr. Truitt requested before he died. The pall bearers were W. L. McDonald, J. W. Cunningham, W. T. Cook, J. W. Dauron, Arthur Rowland and F. M. Fisher.

### BOY SCOUT HIKE.

The Scouts celebrated Washington's birthday with taking a hike. The objective point was the Espananza Bluff, and the start was made at nine o'clock in the morning. There was a procession through town with twenty boys in line. Laddie Lewis bearing the colors and James Welpton with his handsome burro and stylish wagonette to serve with the commissary department. At the bluff there was a swim in the Pecos river and examination of Indian relics. Games also were indulged and the lunch feature was by no means overlooked. A rattlesnake and a bob cat broke in with some excitement and the troop returned with the evening, tired but happy.

E. L. Perry and wife returned to Artesia Wednesday after enjoying a very pleasant visit with neighbors and friends.

## A NEW POST MASTER

### ACTUAL WORK BEGINS ON THE BUILDING OF NEW ROAD FROM LAKEWOOD TO CARLSBAD.

Lakewood, New Mexico, Feb. 21.—Actual work is ready to begin on the road between Lakewood and Carlsbad. State Engineer James A. French has under consideration the matter of route, whether to build on the east side of the Pecos river or locate a new road on the west side. As soon as this is settled Mr. French says he is ready to begin work.

The old road crosses the Pecos river below the McMillan reservoir of the Carlsbad project. The old spillway from the reservoir is on the west side. New channels have been cut there from time to time and during the high water last April not only the wagon road but also the Santa Fe track were badly cut to pieces. Another spillway will be built by the government in the near future about half way between the dam across the river itself and the embankment of the west side. What this new spill way will do to the wagon road and the track of the Santa Fe railway is an open question.

At any rate the crossing of the Pecos river at McMillan will be costly, under present conditions. In time the government will build the third reservoir at Rocky and this will back water up to McMillan when fairly well filled. When this is built even the Santa Fe railway will have to relocate its track.

But then it is not only the question of cost that enters into the location of the Lakewood-Carlsbad road. The highway is for use and the route that will serve the people best will be selected by Mr. French. He and W. M. Atkinson, City Manager of Roswell, spent some time here last week looking over the ground and conferring with the people here and at Carlsbad.

—A. M. Hove.

### COMPANY "B" NEWS.

Business is good at the Armory on regular drill nights these days; enthusiasm is at high pitch, and the company is as busy as if preparing for encampment, or getting ready to go to war.

There was a fairly good attendance at drill last Wednesday night, and the men went through the manual of arms and the school of squad and of company like veterans.

Three more new members were signed up, one of whom was Samuel B. Richey, formerly a member of the Guard in Colorado, and who holds many medals for marksmanship, both with rifle and pistol.

Sergeant Robert W. Finlay has been appointed First Sergeant, vice Sergt. Craddock Rule, who is at present out of the state. Other appointments of non-commissioned officers will be announced at the next weekly drill.

Captain Dean expects to enter an all-company B team to compete against the "all-star" team that won the laurels in the recent competition against Roswell, when the Roswell teams came here for a return match. He will take a squad to the range next Sunday morning for a try-out for the Company B team.

The match will probably be held on March 19th, if this date will suit the Roswellites, as the men will be busy preparing for inspection up to the 15th of March, and therefore, cannot set an earlier date.

Besides the regular drills each Wednesday night, there will be held special drills on March 5th and 12th, Sunday afternoons. These drills being held on Sunday as this is the only day the men can be gotten together in the day time.

Capt. Dean wishes again to impress on the public the importance of holding no special function on Wednesday nights that will in any way interfere with attendance of the men at drill, and to ask that this night be left open so the men may attend the regular weekly drill without fail.

### CLIMATE OF CARLSBAD VERY PLEASING TO MINNESOTA VISITOR AT CITY BEAUTIFUL.

Carlsbad, N. M., Feb. 21.—"The climate of the Pecos Valley is delightful," says Mrs. Thomas F. Barbour of Minneapolis, Minn. She has been a month the guest of her sister, Mrs. A. J. Muzzy, who prevailed upon her to try the Pecos Valley climate for this winter. Her husband, Mr. Barbour is the manager of the Minneapolis house of E. C. Atkins saw company, one of the largest saw makers in the world. Mrs. Barbour will remain for some weeks until the worst of the northern winter is over.

—A. M. Hove.

### MISS DEAN RETURNS TO DALLAS

Miss Ruth Dean will leave tonight for Dallas, Texas, after an extended visit in this city with her brother Claude Dean, and family.—Roswell News, Wednesday.

Miss Ruth Dean, who has been the guest of her brother, Wm. W. Dean, and family, of Carlsbad, for the past two weeks, returned to Roswell Saturday. While here Miss Dean endeared herself to many of Carlsbad's young people, and enjoyed many auto rides through the Valley and to the mountains.

"The Clue", Peoples Theatre tonight.

### POSTOFFICE NOW HELD BY A DEMOCRAT. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWENTY YEARS, CARLSBAD IS SERVED BY A JEFFERSONIAN.

The retiring Officer has lived in the Pecos Valley the Considerable Time of Forty-five Years.

Yesterday morning the faithful, who are many, in Eddy county, had their mail handed them by a democratic postmaster, the first time in a score of years. John B. Harvey wears the title of postmaster of Carlsbad, John T. Bolton retiring postmaster, being checked out late last night.

Mr. Harvey came from Troy, Mo., some twenty-one years ago. He spent the first year at Seven Rivers. Since then he has been in Carlsbad. About five years he was clerk in the grocery that J. M. Pardue conducted in the old stone building now occupied by the post office. Since then he has been a fixture in the county assessor's office, and for eleven years has served as deputy assessor. He has also served as the clerk of the county central committee, and as such has rendered the party efficient service.

Mr. Harvey will make a good postmaster. He attends strictly to business, looks after details carefully, and is always ready to accommodate the public. He finds an office well organized with a force of clerks well trained. There will be no changes in the office force.

The retiring postmaster, John T. Bolton, is an old timer in the Pecos Valley, having lived here for forty-five years. He came to Carlsbad, then called Eddy, in 1891. For more than seventeen years Mr. Bolton was in the employ of Joyce-Fruit company, being the manager of the grocery department of that concern. In December 1907, Mr. Bolton took over the post office and was re-appointed four years later, having served a little over eight years.

When Mr. Bolton took charge of the post office late in 1907, it was a third class office, with about an annual receipt of \$6,000. Today it is a second class office with receipts more than double. In 1907 the star route to the plains in eastern Eddy county served three post offices twice a week. Today a daily mail service goes to sixteen offices on this route. In those early days it was just a fistful of mail, while today the sacks for the plains fill a big auto. The route to Queen then delivered mail once a week, while now it has a twice-a-week service.

The last democratic postmaster in Carlsbad was W. H. Slaughter, who was appointed by President Cleveland. Mr. Slaughter some time after the close of his term, moved from the valley. He was often a visitor and had a host of friends. Mr. Slaughter died about three years ago.

Mr. Bolton has not decided on his future line of action. He has led a long and busy life and is entitled to a brief vacation before starting out on new work. Mr. Bolton talks eternally about the early days. He has seen thousands of buffalo come down from the plains to water in the Pecos river. As far as any one knows, there were no herds of buffalo on the west side of the Pecos river, they being strictly plains animals. Mr. Bolton has seen long trains of ox-drawn wagons come, fall after fall, from the Rio Grande valley to hunt the buffalo for its meat, tallow and hide.

Mr. Bolton retires from the office well satisfied with the growth and hopes that the next eight years will see a still greater advance. The post office is to a great extent an index of the development of the territory it serves.

### THE LAKEWOOD TOMATO.

The tomato has won a name all right. A. C. Crozier, the secretary returned home a short time ago from a trip around the circle to take orders for this season's pack. He did not finish the trip as the orders were so heavy that he thought best to come home and confer with the growers as to what they could do to furnish the tomatoes. The acreage will be increased this year by the old and experienced growers. Others will try tomatoes for the first time.

In connection with tomato growing which is a rush business during the picking and packing season, dairying will be started. This fits in well enough if the farmers will have their cows come fresh late in the fall after the tomato crop is gathered. During the idle months there is plenty of time to look after the cows. The labor question was a serious one last year during the picking and packing. Every man, woman and child was pressed into service. They are worrying about the labor question for this season with the increased acreage and the larger pack that will be made. Last year thirty five cars were packed, while this year the pack may pass the fifty mark.—A. M. Hove.

Clyde P. Baird and wife, also her sister, who were beside her when she was called some weeks ago, returned Friday from Oklahoma. The sister had pneumonia and is just now feeling able to be up.